

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Community Involvement Plan

Eagle Zinc Company Site

Hillsboro, Illinois

W.A. No. 104-CRCR-05ZZ / Contract No. 68-W6-0025

January 2003



Introduction

This Community Involvement Plan for the Eagle Zinc Company site was prepared by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. It provides background information on the site and recommends activities EPA will do to continue to inform the public and local officials about progress at the site and to encourage community involvement during the site cleanup.

This CIP also discusses the concerns of the residents within the site area regarding the site and ways for EPA to address them. The information in this plan is based primarily on discussions with residents on May 20 and 21, 2002.

Site Description

Location and Site Features

The Eagle Zinc Company site is a 132-acre site in the city of Hillsboro, in Montgomery County, Illinois (see Figure 1). The site extends from Smith Road south to an unnamed tributary to the Middle Fork of Shoal Creek. Industrial Park Drive runs along the eastern property boundary. Land use west and south of the site is primarily residential. Land use east of the site is both residential and industrial. The area north of the site includes a golf course and residential areas.

Approximately 13 acres of the site is covered with buildings. The main buildings on the property are an office, which includes a laboratory, equipment storage building, furnace house and baghouse, where zinc product is recovered.

The area west of the site's buildings is used as a storage area for the smelting operation's residue materials. Residue piles also cover the majority of the southwest corner of the site.

Two ponds are located on the site, one in the southeast portion and one in the southwest portion.

Site Background

History

Between 1919 and 1980, the site was owned by Eagle-Picher Industries. In 1980, the site was purchased by Sherwin-Williams Company, who owned the site from 1980 to 1984. T.L. Diamond and Company Inc., the current owner, has operated the site since 1984.

Since 1919, the main manufacturing operation at the site is the zinc oxide smelting process. Zinc oxide smelting is a process which involves heating a mixture of coal and zinc ore in a rotary furnace until the zinc changes from a solid into a liquid. Ambient air is then mixed with the zinc vapor which results in zinc oxide, a white powder. The residue from this process has been stored on the site in piles and currently the site contains approximately 15 of these piles.

Several site assessments, which have included soil and sediment sampling have been conducted on and off the site by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). The on-site soil sampling results have indicated elevated levels of zinc, lead, cadmium and arsenic, which are defined as hazardous substances.

In December 2001, EPA Region 5 signed a consent order with T.L. Diamond, Sherwin-Williams and Eagle-Picher to investigate and assess the extent of any contamination at the site. A consent order is a legal document, approved and issued by a judge, that formalizes an agreement reached between EPA and the current and past owners of the Eagle Zinc site where the owners will perform all or part of a Superfund site investigation and cleanup. Under this order, T.L. Diamond and Sherwin-Williams will investigate contamination at the site and prepare a two-part report called a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. Eagle-Picher's contribution to the investigation will be strictly financial.

The Remedial Investigation will assess the nature and extent of the contamination and any threat to public health, welfare or the environment caused by the release or threatened release of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants from the site. Environmental samples will be collected from soil, ground water, surface water, sediment and on-site residual waste piles. These samples will be collected in two phases, the first beginning this summer. The results of this sampling will be used to assess risks associated with the site to human health and the environment.

Based on the findings of the Remedial Investigation, the Feasibility Study will describe different options for addressing site contamination and evaluate the effectiveness of each option. The Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study will be completed in 2003. EPA, in consultation with IEPA, will then propose a formal cleanup plan for the site and solicit public comments.

Contaminants

The primary site contaminant is zinc oxide. Zinc is a common element found in the earth's surface. Zinc is generally not considered a toxic element. According the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, once zinc is released into the environment, it can attach to soil, sediments and dust particles in the air. When zinc is combined with other elements zinc compounds are formed. Although the toxicity of zinc compounds varies, they are generally of low toxicity. Zinc oxide is formed when zinc is combined with oxygen. Refined zinc oxide is used mainly in the rubber tire industry and paint production.

Communities Background

The city of Hillsboro is located in the south central portion of Illinois. It is located approximately 50 miles south of Springfield and approximately 65 miles east of St. Louis Missouri.

The Eagle Zinc Company site is located in the city of Hillsboro and Montgomery County. The 2000 population for Hillsboro is 4,359 and Montgomery County is 30,652. Both the city and the county have experienced a less than one-percent decrease in population since 1990.

Status of Community Involvement Activities

Because EPA has recently become involved in the Eagle Zinc Company site, it has not conducted any community involvement activities outside of the May 20 and 21, 2002 community interviews described in this CIP.

Community Issues and Concerns

Summary of Community Interview Questions

Below is a summary of the answers given during the community interview process:

1. Have you ever worked at the site or know anyone who has?

Only one person interviewed stated that they had worked at the site for a few months. Several people interviewed named someone they knew who had worked at the site.

2. Have you been following activities at the site? If so, how long have you been following activities at the site?

Everybody interviewed knew about the site. Most people didn't know much about recent activities at the site.

3. Are you aware of what activities took place at the site?

Most people were somewhat aware of what activities took place at the site. Some people did not know the specifics of these activities.

4. Are you aware of any information regarding any off-site impacts and/or previous sampling?

Most people were not aware of any information regarding any off-site impacts and/or previous sampling.

5. What are your current concerns about the site?

The following are the overall concerns people have about the site:

- Trees on and around the site never grew to their full potential
- Respiratory problems and long-term health effects
- White residue in the air
- Bothersome noises from the site
- Sampling only being done on-site
- Residential development along the site
- Runoff from the site going into the creek
- Sports complex and possible health effects
- Impact on water
- Lack of information about the site and its activities
- What is involved in the cleanup, how the contaminated soil/waste going to be removed, the potential increase of traffic on Industrial Park Road

6. How do you think the site, in its current state, poses a risk to you?

Most people believed there was at least some risk of the site on surrounding properties.

7. What contacts have you had with government officials about the site?

Most people have not had contact with government officials about the site mostly due to not knowing whom to contact. The people who have contacted officials have talked with the IEPA.

8. Do you feel local officials, and IEPA and EPA officials have been responsive to your concerns?

A few people stated IEPA has been responsive to their concerns.

9. How do you feel about the way the information about the site is being distributed?

Overall, people liked the way the information was being distributed.

10. Are you interested in receiving more information about the site?

Overall, yes.

If yes, what kinds of information would you like from EPA?

Information about the site, cleanup activities, and zinc oxide.

If yes, what is the best way to get that information to you? (newsletter, newspaper, e-mail, Internet, etc)

The best ways people state are through fact sheets, e-mail, newspaper articles and ads.

11. Do you feel the site problems and events have been covered adequately by local, state, or regional media?

Overall, yes.

12. What type of media (i.e. TV, radio, newspaper) do you rely on to get information about the site?

Newspapers - *Hillsboro Journal* and *Montgomery County News*

Radio - WSMI

13. Is there anybody else that we should talk to about this site?

Several people interviewed named someone they felt would be a good source of information about the site. The following is a list of occupations of those mentioned as good contacts regarding this site:

- Autobody shop
- Former plant manager
- County Health Board
- Local high school teacher
- School bus driver
- Local engineering firm
- Atlas Soil

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- *Hillsboro Journal*
 - FOS field operation
 - Environmental Protection Specialist
 - State of Illinois

Other comments:

The following comments were made during the interviews:

History of Site and Surrounding Area

- Two fires occurred at the site: one in late 1970s and one in early 1980s.
- A pesticide plant mysteriously burned down south of the site.
- Catapa trees were planted in the 1940s because they are known to grow in lead polluted soil.
- Weldon Kunzeman did monitoring at site and assisted with site assessment.
- The area north of site, currently the sports complex, was a horse racing practice track in the 1940s and an airfield. A horse, which died, had blood samples taken and analyzed. The results showed lead killed the horse.
- Orchard Knowles was plotted in 1908.
- The Eagle Zinc sold the sports complex to the city of Hillsboro for \$1.
- The farmer who leased property from Eagle Zinc never was able to produce a crop. He later filed a complaint.
- A local biology high school teacher conducted sampling on the sports complex property.
- During World War II, the site was used as a lead smelter plant.
- A dam on the site had some cinders taken out.
- A building from the site has been landfilled on site.

Site Issues

- The site can be smelly.
- Children in the area ride their bikes over the "black hills".
- A retention dam was built within last year.
- The fencing around site is either not good or not secure.
- Land formerly owned by Eagle Picher is currently the site of a new housing development and also where the sports complex was built.
- A pond was built and a catch basin was installed on the site last year.
- White residue can sometimes be seen blowing from site across the road making it difficult to see on the road.
- The site has received fines within the last year, which have been filed at courthouse.
- Sherwin-Williams had slag removed and taken off-site to a facility in Missouri, where metal particles were taken out.
- The west side of creek drains from the sports complex.
- A creek that drains from a pond on the site has a surface water monitoring point near Industrial Park. When the water reaches a certain depth, the monitoring system automatically begins.

Off-site Issues

- The corn north of the site has never grown over 2 ½ feet tall.
- People have tried to farm the area north of site but have not been successful.
- The sports complex was built on city of Hillsboro property.
- The city's Housing Authority is building twenty low-income single-family homes near the site.
- Hurst-Rosche is the engineering firm that built the sports complex. They have said the site was ok.
- Adjacent properties want to be notified about the investigation of the site.
- The Illinois Department of Transportation has an easement to pump water from the drainage ditch to the pond near the University of Illinois-Extension property.
- Untainted soil and two unused drinking wells are available for sampling on Earl Huston's property.
- The city of Hillsboro landfill is located on the left side of Lake Road and past the golf course.

Other Issues

- All efforts should be made to establish the site back to its maximum potential.
- School facilities are available for meetings, just contact School District #3,
- The common gathering places in town are Hardee's, the Red Rooster and the Country Club.

Frequently Asked Questions

In addition to expressing their issues and concerns about the site, those interviewed also had a lot of questions about the site and its activities. The most frequently asked questions during the community involvement process included the following:

- Have any soil samples been completed for the sports complex?
- What is the scope of the project?
- Why hasn't the city of Hillsboro been informed about the site's cleanup?
- What are the acceptable levels of zinc, magnesium, lead, cadmium and arsenic?
- Will air samples be taken?
- How much water does the site use in their process? Does the water come from the city? If not, where?
- Are the soccer fields at the sports complex going to be studied?
- What does the site use for heat/fuel?
- How many employees work at the site?
- Who is the union leader for the employees at the site?
- Has any sampling occurred at the site?
- Is the site a risk to children?
- Is there any site similar to this site that we can learn from?
- Can EPA review and evaluate the University of Illinois-Extension environmental assessment for accuracy?
- When will updates be given during the investigation? Every 30 days? Every 60 days?
- Can information be put on the University of Illinois Extension's web site?
- Wants to know what the elevated levels of contamination are?

Proposed Community Involvement Activities

The next step for EPA is to address the above issues, concerns, and questions that were expressed by the public about the site. The following discussion includes community involvement activities that EPA is proposing to implement to address these issues and concerns.

Fact Sheets

EPA will mail out fact sheets to those on the site's mailing list as a way to give updates on the site and its activities. The fact sheets will be mailed out periodically to inform the public about upcoming meetings and important technical information.

Information Repository

An information repository, where project information is available, has been set up in the public library in Hillsboro.

A contact information about the repository can be found in Appendix A.

Media Relations

EPA will continue to be available to the local media. Most people interviewed stated that the area's newspapers and radio and television stations provide good coverage of the site and its activities. The most widely read newspapers are the *Hillsboro Journal* and the *Montgomery County News*. EPA will continue to publish notices in these newspapers.

A contact list of all media services can be found in Appendix A.

Internet

EPA will maintain and regularly update a Web site, which will contain information about the site, its activities and upcoming meetings. EPA will consider placing technical documents, including this one, on the Web site.

EPA Presence and Contacts

EPA's Community Involvement Coordinators and Remedial Project Manager will respond to inquiries from those interested in the site throughout the cleanup. They will also be available to speak to local citizen groups, upon request. EPA's toll-free telephone number and the project staff's direct numbers and e-mail addresses will be included on all community involvement material and is included in this plan in Appendix A.



Figure 1: Site Location Map

Appendix A

Eagle Zinc Company Site Contact List

Federal Elected Officials

Senator Richard J. Durbin
Springfield District Office
525 S. Eighth St.
Springfield, IL 62703

Senator Peter Fitzgerald
Central Illinois Office
520 S. Eighth St.
Springfield, IL 62703

Congressman John Shimkus
Springfield District Office
3130 Chatham Road, Suite C
Springfield, IL 62704

State Elected Officials

Governor George Ryan
222 S. College, Floor 1
Springfield, IL 62706

State Senator Vince Demuzio
140 Carlinville Plaza
Carlinville, IL 62626

State Representative Gary Hannig
300 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

State Agencies

Rick Lanham
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
1021 N. Grand Ave. East
Springfield, IL 62702
Phone: (217) 782-9881
rick.lanham@epa.state.il.us

Catherine Copley
Environmental Toxicologist
Illinois Department of Public Health
22 Kettle River Drive
Glen Carbon, IL 62034
Phone: (618) 656-6680, ext. 170
cccopley@idph.state.il.us

Local Elected Officials

Montgomery County

Joe Cordani
Montgomery County Board District #4
720 Yale
Hillsboro, IL 62049
Phone: (217) 532-6868

Dennis Jagodzinski
Montgomery County Board District #4
607 East St.
Taylor Springs, IL 62089
Phone: (217) 532-3385

Roger Myers
Montgomery County Board District #4
8 Ida St.
Hillsboro, IL 62049
Phone: (217) 532-5909

Ron Deabenderfer
Montgomery County Board District #6
117 E. Tremont
Hillsboro, IL 62049
Phone: (217) 532-5139

John Downs
Montgomery County Board District #6
428 S. Hamilton
Hillsboro, IL 62049
Phone: (217) 532-5546

Jamee Durn
Montgomery County Board District #6
1019 Bell Place
Hillsboro, IL 62049

Jodie Estabrook
Director of Environmental Health
Montgomery County Health Department
11191 Illinois Route 185
P.O. Box 128
Hillsboro, IL 62049
Phone: (217) 532-2001
Fax: (217) 532-2089

City of Hillsboro

City of Hillsboro
447 S. Main St.
P.O. Box 556
Hillsboro, IL 62049
Phone: 217-532-5566
Fax: 217-532-5567
cityhall@cillnet.com

Mayor Harold Whitten

Dave Booher - City Clerk

William Baran - City Commissioner
(Public Works)

Terry Richmond - City Commissioner
(Public Safety)

Dennis McCammack - City
Commissioner (Public Property)

Geoff Trost - City Commissioner
(Accounts and Finances)

** Council meetings are held at City Hall on
the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m.*

Darrell Turcol, Police Chief
Hillsboro Police Department
Phone: (217) 532-6120

Joe Lyerla, Fire Chief
Hillsboro Fire Department
Phone: (217) 532-6129
fireman@cillnet.com

EPA

EPA Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590
Phone: (800) 621-8431
www.epa.gov/region5/sites

Dion Novak
Remedial Project Manager (SR-6J)
Phone: (312) 886-4737 or (800) 621-8431
Ext. 64737
novak.dion@epa.gov

Jennifer Ostermeier
Community Involvement Coordinator
Phone: (312) 353-0618 or (800) 621-8431
Ext. 30618
ostermeier.jennifer@epa.gov

Information Repositories

Hillsboro Public Library
214 School St.
Hillsboro, IL 62049
Phone: (217) 532-3055
Fax: (217) 532-6813
Cheryl Sale, Librarian

Media – Newspapers

The Montgomery County News
P.O. Box 250
106 W. Seward
Hillsboro, IL 62049
Phone: (217) 532-3929
Fax: (217) 532-3522
thenews@mcleodusa.net
Nancy Slepicka, Publisher

Hillsboro Journal
431 S. Main St.
Hillsboro, IL 62049
Phone: (217) 532-3933
Fax: (217) 532-3632
Ron Deubenderfer, Reporter

Media – Radio

WXAJ-FM
3055 S. 4th St.
Springfield, IL 62703
Phone: (217) 241-5477
Fax: (217) 528-5348

WIBI-FM
P.O. Box 140
Carlinville, IL 62626
Phone: (217) 854-4800 or (800) 707-9191
Fax: (217) 854-4810

WAOX-FM/WSMI-AM
Talley Radio Network
P.O. Box 10
Litchfield, IL 62056
Phone: (618) 635-6000 or (217) 532-2085
Fax: (217) 532-2431

KTRS-AM
638 W. Port Plaza
St. Louis, MO 63146
Phone: (314) 453-5543
Fax: (314) 453-9807

KMOX-AM
One Memorial Drive
St. Louis, MO 63102
Phone: (314) 621-2345
Fax (314) 444-3230

Media – Television

WICS-TV
2680 E. Cook St.
Springfield, IL 62703
Phone: (217) 753-5620
Fax: (217) 753-5620

WRSP TV
3003 Old Rochester Road
Springfield, IL 62703
Phone: (217) 523-8855
Fax: (217) 523-4410

KSDK-TV
1000 Market St.
St. Louis, MO 63101
Phone: (314) 444-5125
Fax: (314) 444-5164

KMOV-TV
One Memorial Drive
St. Louis, MO 63102
Phone: : (314) 444-6333
Fax: (314) 621-4775

KTVI - TV
5915 Berthold Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63110
Phone: (314) 647-2222
Fax: (314) 644-7419